

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-21 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 13, 17 and 19 are independent. By the present amendment, claims 1, 9 and 17 are canceled, and claims 2, 4, 12, 13, 18, 20 and 21 are amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10 and 19. To expedite issuance of the application, claims 2, 4, 12, 13, 18, 20 and 21 have been amended to depend from an allowed claim, and claims 1, 9 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue patent protection of the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Drawings

Formal drawings including replacement sheets for Figs. 1-11 are being filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings set forth in the office action is believed to have been overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and would appreciate early notification of the same.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 659-9076 if further issues remain with allowance of this case.

Serial No.: 09/695,228
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Reply to Office Action Mailed Sept. 1, 2010

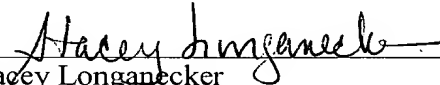
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Deposit Account Authorization

Although no fee is believed due by submission of this paper, authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **18-2220** (Order No. 40554).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 1, 2010



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